

# Crime Prevention Newsletter

Fort Worth, Texas

April 2007

## Sexual Predators

It was once believed that the stereotypical pedophile was a raincoat clad “dirty old man” lurking near the neighborhood elementary school. As awareness has grown, the facts have revealed that a pedophile can come from any walk of life, economic background, religion, or race. A pedophile could be as close as the person next door or the “grandfatherly/grandmotherly” male or female down the street.

Sexual predators prey on the innocence of children. They feed on the thrill of violating trust. Their aim is to find the perfect game and capture their victim. They are child oriented to the point of obsession. Such deviates spend their time watching children, talking to them, evaluating their mind frame. Child predators dig deep into the psyche of a child. They watch their every move and observe their feelings. As they see each mood, they watch for what activates the change and use it to play upon the child’s emotions.

Predators play the game slowly. They befriend them, play with them and get to know them. The predators see their chance to advance the game, and take each calculated move as it comes. Each step is carefully planned to draw the child closer to them. They gain the child’s trust, reinforce it, then they eventually violate that trust.

A child’s mind does not travel in the same direction as a predator’s. They look at the world differently than an adult. They only see a new friend who understands them and likes to be with them. These criminals find ways to enter into a relationship with them and then lure them into the direction they have planned.

Education is the “key” to your children’s safety. Take the time to talk to your children and tell them there are such people are in the world, being sure they understand why you are giving them this information.

Educational information should begin with children as young as three or four years of age. Teach them their bodies are special and private. Let children know that it is OK to say “NO” to anything that makes them feel uncomfortable. Make sure they get enough attention at home. Victims are often children who feel lonely, lacking attention and interaction. Teach them not to give out personal information to someone they do not know. There is so much information that when it comes to teaching your child, everyone’s views will differ. Be sure to arm your children with enough knowledge that they will be able to make the right decisions at the right time.

To find where criminals live in your area, go to [www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us) and input your address. When you visit this site, enter your address and a map will pop up with your house as the small icon of a house. Red, blue, and green dots will surround your entire neighborhood. When you click on these dots, a picture of a person will appear with an address and the description of the crime he or she has committed.

The best thing is that you can show your children pictures, and see how close these people live to your home or school.

The site was developed by John Walsh from America’s Most Wanted. It is another tool to help us keep our kids safe. Please pass it on.



Report crimes, trespassers and suspicious activities to the ROCC at [800-832-5452](tel:800-832-5452).